during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 and also during the period from the Ist April to 30th June, 2001; and

(b) whether Government intend to refix the prices of wheat and rice distributed through the PDS?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The quantities of rice and wheat lifted by States/UTs under the Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) during the years 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001 and 2001-02 (upto June, 2001) are as under:—

(Fig. In lakh tones)

Year	Wheat	Rice	Total*
1998-99	78.24	106.21	184.45
1999-2000	56.18	111.89	168.07
2000-01	38.44	76.34	114.78
2001-02 (Upto June, 2001)	8.87	17.83	26.70

*(Provisional)

(b) The Government has revised the Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of rice and wheat for above poverty line (APL) category with effect from 12.7.2001 as under:—

(Rs. per quintal)

Commodity	C.I.Ps	
	Prior to 12.7.01	From 12.7.01
Rice	1130	830
Wheat	830	610

Lifting of rice stock by FCI

2588. SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that for lifting of the stocks of rice by the Food Corporation of India, huge arrears of dues from the rice millers to the farmers has accumulated;

(b) the arrears of such dues to farmers as on April 30, 2001 in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Kerala, Assam and other rice-growing States; and

(c) the amount released so far by the FCI to millers in different States, especially Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN):(a) to (c) In view of the cap on borrowings from the Banks to the maximum extent of 10 times of the paid up capital, Food Corporation of India (FCI) was not able to obtain bank credit beyond Rs.22,945 crores during March, 2001. In view of this, the FCI could not effect payment of around Rs.1700 crores, to Punjab (Rs.1100 crores), Andhra Pradesh (Rs.300 crores), Haryana (Rs.300 crores) and Karnataka (Rs.30 crores). The cap on borrowing by FCI was removed by the Government by amending the FCI Act in May, 2001. The FCI was, therefore able to get additional bank finance and discharge the above dues. In respect of Punjab, Haryana and Karnataka, the payments were due only to the State Government and their Agencies. In case of Andhra Pradesh only, payment was due to the rice millers. The above arrears to rice millers in respect of Andhra Pradesh was cleared in May. Presently the payment position is normal. The millers purchase the stocks from the farmers/traders for conversion of paddy into rice. The FCI monitors payment due to the millers for stocks delivered. The amount paid by FCI to the rice millers of Andhra Pradesh against the levy rice delivered during the period between 1.4.2001 to 27.7.2001 is Rs. 2119.93 crores for 19.34 lakh tonnes of levy rice.

Off-take of Foodgrains

2589. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) how much tonnage of foodgrains are presently in the godowns as buffer stock;

(b) whether the present stock is adequate to meet requirements of the States; and

(c) how much was the off take by the States in the first quarter of 2001 under BPL Scheme and Annapurna Anna Yojana?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) The stock of rice and wheat as on 1.7.2001 in the Central Pool against the prescribed buffer stocking norms of foodgrains was as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

	Rice	Wheat	Total
*Stock	227.51	389.20	616.71
Buffer norms	100.00	143.00	243.30

*(Provisional)

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following quantities of rice and wheat have been lifted by State Governments/U.Ts during the first quarter of 2001 (January, 2001 to March, 2001) under below poverty line (BPL) category and Annapurna Scheme:-